

as asserted in the Office Action. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the arguments herein are respectfully requested.

The present application discloses a printer having a print server that manages a print queue. For example, Figure 2 of the present application shows a printer 130 having a printer server 230. The print server detects print jobs received from one or more computer systems (See Figure 1). In response to detecting that a print job has been received, the print server stored the print job in a print queue. Each claim of the present application includes a limitation that includes a print server. For example, independent claim 21 recites a printer having a print server that manages a print queue.

Claim 21:

A printer comprising:

an interface adapted to receive a print job from a network;
a print server, formed on a substrate, to detect the print job and manage a print queue;
a formatter, formed on the substrate, adapted to perform at least a first formatting function associated with the print job; and
a print engine adapted to drive a print mechanism in accordance with the print job.

Honma does not disclose a printer having a print server that manages a print queue. Honma discloses a user-operated printer (Figure 1, image forming apparatus 1000) having a control panel (e.g., Figure 6) by which a user transfers image data between devices. Honma discloses a memory for storing transferred image data that may be *later* recalled by way of the control panel. For example, Honma discloses that a user operates the control panel to initiate a communication session with a personal computer 11 or a digital copying apparatus 13, as examples. Based on the commands entered by way of the control panel, the user-operated printer receives and stores in memory (the user's personal box) the image data received from the personal computer or the digital copying apparatus. Honma does not disclose a printer that includes a print server.

In rejecting claim 21, the Office Action references the file section (element 5 in Figures 1 and 4) of Honma as a section that manages a print queue. However, Honma does not state that the file section manages a print queue. Honma states that transferred image data is stored on a magneto-optical disk drive unit of the file section 5 (Honma, col. 4, lines 35-45). Honma describes how a user may transfer image data from a host computer to a printer and then later recall that image data for printing:

When it is determined that the user has pressed the other device key 805, the process goes to step S102. It is determined whether there are available other remote image-forming apparatuses which can exchange data with the user's own apparatus (here the image-forming apparatus of the sales section 1 GP), and switches the control panel 500 from the screen shown in FIG. 12 to the screen shown in FIG. 15 to show the determination result on screen. When the user selects the general affairs section GP as a desired apparatus and presses the OK key 952 as shown in FIG. 15, the process goes to step S103. Step S103 is looped until the connection to that GP is established. The communication is performed between the respective network interfaces 7 of the two image-forming apparatuses through the TCP/IP protocol, for instance. Col. 19, lines 47-59.

After the image data is transferred, the user may at a *later* time select the image data for printing:

The user transfers PDL data with both-side printing set in the operation mode from the host computer to an image-forming apparatus having a both-side printing unit of the general affairs section GP, and **later** attempts to print out the print data on the image-forming apparatus of the general affairs section GP. Col. 19, lines 21-26 (bold added)

Honma states that that the later-printed print data is obtained from a user's personal box in memory:

The user later prints out the image which is developed from the PDL image, and which is stored in the personal box 601 having the user's own personal box number, using the control panel 500. Col. 12, lines 34-37.

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Thus, Honma discloses a system in which image data may be selected from memory by a user at a control panel of a printing device. The image data may be selected from a user's personal box in memory. However, Honma does not disclose a print server having a print queue and does not disclose that the file section 5 is anything more than a memory device having users' personal boxes.

For the reasons stated above, claim 21 and its dependent claims should be found patentable over the cited references and the rejection be withdrawn.

Similar to claim 21 discussed above, independent claims 36 and 53 in the present application each recite a printer or printer formatter having a print server. Accordingly, claims 36 and 53 and their respective dependent claims are patentable over the cited references for the same reason as claim 21.

Conclusion

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, we respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections, and we submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

If for any reason the Examiner is not able to allow the application, he is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,


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